

Using the practice papers

The practice papers in this pack can be used as you would any other practice materials. The children will need to be familiar with specific test-focused skills, such as reading carefully, leaving questions if they seem too difficult, working at a suitable pace, and of course checking through their work.

If you choose to use the papers for looking at content rather than practising tests, do be aware of the time factor. The tests require a lot of work to be done in 1 hour as they are testing the degree of competence children have – it is not enough to be able to answer questions correctly but slowly.

Marking and assessing the papers

The mark schemes and answers are located in this booklet.

Marking is tricky: answers in literacy will be varied and subjective from child to child, and a fair degree of marker discretion and interpretation is needed, particularly if children's understanding and skills have to be deduced from their answers. The mark schemes provide detailed examples of correct answers (although other variations/phrasings are often acceptable) and an explanation about what the answer should contain to be awarded a mark or marks.

Although the mark scheme contains several suggestions for correct answers, for many questions, some children may find other ways of expressing a correct answer. When marking these tests, judgement needs to be exercised when assessing the accuracy or relevance of an answer and credit should be given for correct responses.

The thresholds for Levels 3, 4 and 5 vary each year according to difficulty levels. For the sample tests in this pack, the level thresholds below should be treated as a guideline. All tests have a maximum of 50 marks available.

Marks achieved	Level
0–10	Below Level 3
11–17	Level 3
18–32	Level 4
33–50	Level 5